

MY THOUGHTS ON REVELATION 12

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Revelation 12, when you think about it, gives us detailed intelligence about our enemy Satan. It reveals his plans to destroy us and tells us exactly how we can defeat him.

The woman of Rev 12:2 is Mary who bore Jesus. The first plan of Satan was to try to destroy Jesus as soon as he was born. Herod was the agent of Satan who tried to kill Jesus. Mary escaped to Egypt. So Rev 12:6 must be referring to her place of safety in Egypt for 1260 days.

Then it says in Rev 12:9 that the dragon was cast out of Heaven. When was Satan cast out? Many believe he was cast out before Adam during the supposed destruction of the earth between Gen 1:1 and 1:2. However, Jesus said just before his death in Jo 12:31, "NOW is the judgment of this world; NOW shall the prince of this world be cast out." So the war in Heaven of Rev 12:7-8 took place just before Jesus' death. Then Satan was cast out of Heaven Rev 12:9) at the time of Jesus' death.

So all the scriptures of Rev 12 up to verse 13 take place up to the time of Christ's death. From that point on Satan's plan consists of three things.

FIRST he persecutes the woman. To protect her from this persecution she goes to a place of safety for three and a half years. (Verse 14) This could be interpreted as having happened to Mary when John took her in after Jesus' death to take care of her as his own mother (Jo 12:26-27) and then she may have gone with him as to a place of safety when he was exiled to the Isle of Patmos (Rev 1:9). This could be interpreted as having happened to the early church to protect them from Satan's great persecutions of that time, perhaps at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. We have interpreted this as happening to the end-time church as promised protection for three and a half years from the Beast. However, Daniel 7:21, 25 and 8:24 as well as Rev 6:10-11, Mat 24:9, Rev 13:7 show that the end-time saints will not be protected from the Beast.

SECOND Satan casts out of his mouth waters as a flood that he might cause the woman to be carried away by the flood. To protect her from this flood, the earth helps the woman and swallows up the flood. (verse 15-16) In the Bible a flood is symbolic of an overflowing of ungodly men. (2 Sam 22:5. Psm 18:4). In the Old Testament the earth did indeed swallow up Korah and his flood of ungodly men (Num 16) And certainly the early church was all but taken over by floods of ungodly men.

How does 'the earth' help the New Testament church from being taken over by these floods? Mat 7:25 says that the 'floods' will come and winds will blow (winds are also symbolic of false prophets in Jer 5:13 and iniquities in Isa 64:6) and beat upon the spiritual house we are building. But it will not fall or be 'swallowed up' by the world if they are built upon the (solid earth) the rock of the true teachings and keeping of God's word.

The flood Satan casts out could also be taken as a warning specifically to the saints in the end time. Mat 24:37-39 says that the day of the coming of the Son of man shall be like the days of Noah. For before the flood they were eating and drinking etc. Then the flood took them all away. The flood consumed the world of Noah because of their iniquities. 1Tim 6:5-19 says that we could be 'drowned' in destruction and perdition if we focus on pursuit of gain rather than on pursuit of righteousness. 1Pe 3:20-21 says that just as Noah was saved through the flood by the ark, we are saved from being drowned in our iniquities by the covenant of our baptism.

Another end-time flood warning is in Dan 9:26-27. "And after sixty-two weeks, Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Here we see that the flood is the end of the city and the sanctuary in the last week of the seventy weeks prophesy.

Mat 24:1-2 and 2Thes 2:1-10 also prophesies the destruction of the 'sanctuary' in the end time and has to do with the great 'falling away'.

Luk 21:20-24 and Zec 14:1-4 prophesies the destruction of the 'city' in the end time.

How might the 'earth' help us to survive this flood?

Zech 14:4-5 indicates that there will be a way of escape provided through a valley in the destruction of Jerusalem

2 Thes 2 indicates that our 'standing fast' in the love of the truth will keep us from being 'swallowed up' by the world in the great falling away.

The great flood Satan casts out might be a one-time event. Isa 59:19-20 indicates it will be a one-time event near the return of Christ. "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. The redeemer will come to Zion and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, says the Lord."

The great flood Satan casts out might also be an ongoing effort to discourage and destroy Christians since the time of Christ by surrounding their lives with overwhelming evils of men and circumstances. Ps 69:1-2 "Save me O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters where the floods overflow me."

In whatever way we might be threatened with a flood cast out of Satan's mouth, we can take comfort in remembering Israel's escape from Egypt when the floods of Satan's armies pursued them

Ps 66:6 The Lord turned the sea into dry land; they went through the floods on foot

THIRD The third and last plan of Satan after being cast out of Heaven is make war with the rest of her seed who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Notice that no protection is offered from this war. This is obviously the final end-time war against the saints. Rev 13:7. It was granted to him (the Beast) to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue and nation.

CONCLUSION

As we see, Satan's whole purpose is to do everything he can to destroy us and Rev 12 gives us the intelligence to know his plan. God gives us the way to overcome him in the middle of Rev 12 verse 11. "They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto death." This verse says a lot when you think about it. We must hold fast to the blood of the lamb - that is, our Passover covenant with God. We must hold fast to testifying the true word of God. And we must be willing to die for God and his word. If we truly love God, and we know he loves us, nothing will be able to separate us from that love.

Ca 8:6 Love is strong as death

Ca 8:7 the floods cannot drown love